

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 AEC-11

AID-20 CEA-02 CIEP-02 COME-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01

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TO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 030790

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:DA ENRG

SUBJECT: TALK WITH DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER GULDBERG

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1. EUR/NE OFFICE DIRECTOR AND DESK OFFICER HAD CHANCE TO

DISCUSS DANISH VIEWS ON JUST CONCLUDED WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE AND OTHER MATTERS WITH DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER OVE GULDBERG AT AIRPORT FEBRUARY 13 PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR COPENHAGEN.

2. GULDBERG SAID HE WAS SATISFIED WITH RESULTS ACHIEVED AT CONFERENCE AND AGREED THAT A FRAMEWORK OF COOPERATION HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED. GULDBERG SAID EC HAD ITS PROBLEMS BUT WOULD BE ABLE TO LIVE WITH THEM; THE SPLIT WOULD BE HEALED. A COOLING OFF PERIOD OF 6-8 MONTHS SHOULD, HE SAID, PRECEDE ANY NEW INITIATIVES FOR THE EC. WHEN DEPTOFF SAID DENMARK HAD PLAYED CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE AT CONFERENCE, GULDBERG WENT TO SOME LENGTHS TO MAKE POINT THAT HE UNDERSTOOD AND SUPPORTED FRENCH POSITION. (FYI: DESPITE LENGTHY EXPLANATION, GULDBERG WAS NOT CLEAR AS TO RATIONALE FOR SUCH SUPPORT WHICH, IN ANY CASE, WAS NOT EVIDENT DURING CONFERENCE.)

3. GULDBERG SAID HE WOULD BE GOING TO SAUDI ARABIA NEXT WEEK, AND AFTER TANTALIZING PAUSE, EXPLAINED THAT OCCASION WAS DANISH COMMERCIAL EXPOSITION ORGANIZED LAST YEAR. HE SAID HE WOULD PROBABLY MEET WITH KING FAISAL AND WOULD EXPLAIN DENMARK'S PRECARIOUS ENERGY SITUATION--

90 PERCENT DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTED OIL. WHEN PRICES WENT UP, THIS AFFECTED DENMARK'S ENTIRE ENERGY BILL, NOT JUST THAT RELATIVELY SMALL PERCENT THE US IMPORTED. A PRICE ROLLBACK TO PERHAPS 8 DOLLARS A BARREL, OR LESS, WOULD CERTAINLY HELP DENMARK AND HE WOULD HOPE TO MAKE THIS POINT TO FAISAL.

4. HE SAID THAT SOME FRENCH BILATERAL DEALS HAD SPECIFIED AMOUNTS AND PRICES WITH THE RESULT THAT FRANCE HAD COMMITTED ITSELF TO TAKING OIL AT HISTORICALLY HIGH PRICES FOR MANY YEARS, IN CONTRAST TO JAPANESE DEALS WHICH HAD BEEN FLEXIBLE AND VAGUE ON AMOUNTS AND PRICES. GULDBERG QUICKLY AGREED THAT FLEXIBILITY WAS IMPORTANT AND SAID THAT HE WAS NOT INTERESTED IN COMMITTING DENMARK TO PAYING HIGH PRICES FOR THE LONG-TERM.

5. REGARDING ROLE OF MAJOR OIL COMPANIES, GULDBERG SAID THEY HAD SUPPLIED DENMARK WELL WHEN SUPPLIES WERE ABUNDANT
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BUT THAT SITUATION WAS DIFFERENT NOW. GULDBERG SHOWED ANNOYANCE AT RECENT, BUT UNSPECIFIED, MOVES OF MAJORS AND WAS SKEPTICAL THAT DENMARK WOULD CONTINUE TO BE AS WELL SERVED IN FUTURE AS HAD BEEN CASE IN PAST.

6. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION, JENS CHRISTENSEN, UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, SAID AT AIRPORT THAT EC WOULD RECOVER FROM DIVISIVE EFFECTS OF CONFERENCE

AND THAT BREACH WOULD BE HEALED IN A FEW MONTHS TIME.

7. TIGHT SCHEDULE AND EXTENDED CONFERENCE SESSIONS PRE-
CLUDED SEPARATE BILATERAL TALK BETWEEN GULDBERG AND SEC-
RETARY. KISSINGER

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